

What is claim is:

1. A process for infusing cranberries comprising the steps of
  - a) punching the cranberries with a tapered punch; and
  - b) submerging the cranberries in a sugar bath.
2. The process of claim 1, wherein the cranberries in step a) are frozen at about -2 to about -5°C.
3. The process of claim 1, wherein the sugar bath has a sugar content of about 48 to about 68°BRIX.
4. The process of claim 1, wherein the tapered punch is tubular rod having a diameter of about 2 to about 4 mm at an untapered end.
5. The process of claim 1, wherein the tapered punch is tapered to a point at one end.
6. The process of claim 1, wherein the taper of the tapered punch has a length of about 1 to about 2 inches.
7. The process of claim 1, wherein the cranberries have diameters of greater than about 10.5 mm.
8. The process of claim 1, wherein the cranberries are *Vaccinium oxycoccus*.

9. The process of claim 1, wherein step b) takes place in two 24 hour sequential batch steps in barrels that are rotated every two hours.
10. The process of claim 9, wherein the barrels are baffled.
11. The process of claim 9, wherein the barrels has capacities of about 25 liters to about 250 liters.
12. The process of claim 1, further comprising the step of
  - c) drying the infused cranberries.
13. The process of claim 12, wherein the cranberries are coated with oil before drying.
14. The process of claim 13, wherein the oil is less than 0.3% organic sunflower oil.
15. The process of claim 12, wherein step c) takes place at about 42 to about 57°C for about 24 to about 36 hours.
16. The process of claim 12, wherein step c) is a continuous process.
17. The process of claim 1, wherein steps a) and b) are batch processes.
18. A tapered punch for punching cranberries comprising a tubular rod having a first end and a second end, said first end is tapered to a point.

19. The tapered punch of claim 18, wherein the tubular rod had a diameter of about 2 to about 4 mm.
20. The tapered punch of claim 18, wherein the taper of the first end is about 1 to about 2 inches.